

Claims

1. Communication apparatus including driver means (5, 6) for applying a switched signal to a communication line (3, 4) with a controlled slew rate, said driver means (5, 6) comprising a series of transfer elements (18, 20) and delay means comprising a series of delay elements (17, 19) for cumulatively establishing operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line, whereby to apply said switched signal progressively to said communication line,

characterised in that said delay means comprises feedback means (25, 26) responsive to the signal that said driver means (5, 6) applies to said communication line (3, 4) for controlling the delays of said delay elements (23, 24), so as to control the delays with which said operational connections of said transfer elements (18, 20) with said communication line are established.
2. Communication apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and comprising a signal receiver (2) connected to receive signals from said communication line (3, 4), wherein said feedback means (25, 26) comprises reference means (27, 28, 29) for generating a reference rate signal having a reference rate of change, said reference means being arranged to start generation of said reference rate signal at the start of a slew phase of said switched signal, reference receiver means (31) responsive to the value of said reference rate signal relative to a reference signal, and comparator means (33) responsive to relative times of response of said signal receiver and said reference receiver.
3. Communication apparatus as claimed in claim 2 for applying switched signals to a pair of said communication lines (3, 4), wherein said driver means (5, 6) is arranged to apply respective first and second switched signals to the communication lines of said pair (3, 4), said comparator means (33) being responsive to relative times of response of a combined value of said first and second signals and of the signal from said reference receiver means (31).
4. Communication apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each of said delay elements (23, 24) comprises a series of delay sub-elements (36)

connected to trigger each other in succession, and said feedback means comprises means (25, 37) for selecting which of said delay sub-elements in said series (36) triggers establishment of an operational connection of the corresponding one of said transfer elements (18, 20) with said communication line (3, 4).